

"Today we remember and honor all those who have fallen serving our nation in the armed services, those patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation and the liberties we enjoy. They are the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and our California National Guard. They have protected our shores and reached out to others in need whenever called.

"At many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen are marked with flags, some towns hold Memorial Day parades, and we all need to observe the "National Moment of Remembrance." At 3 p.m. today, local time, for all Americans, we owe our courageous service men and women a moment of silence and respect. At our national cemeteries, 'Taps' can be heard to echo across the green fields marked with marble. I encourage each of you, if not today, to visit the one nearest to you and view the cost of freedom, the sacrifices made for each of us so that we may live free.

"It is time to reconfirm our commitment to support and respect all those who serve and we need to acknowledge their sacrifices on our behalf, especially now in time of war.

"As Lieutenant Governor, I am continuing to fight for every benefit and honor, even in these times of fiscal stress. We owe our courageous Californians nothing less."